

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00
(ISO) W

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O 081615Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 877

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG PFOR AO OREP (CLARK, DICK)

SUBJ: CODEL CLARK MEETING WITH MOBUTU

1. CODEL CLARK HAD 90-MINUTE BREAKFAST MEETING WITH MOBUTU DEC 8 WHICH COVERED BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BILATERAL ISSUES. MOBUTU RESPONDED TO QUERIES RE ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS BY ASSERTING THAT GOZ ACTIVELY SEEKING PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND THAT TWO GOVTS HAD IN FACT JUST AGREED TO ANOTHER (THIRD) MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION IN BRAZZAVILLE NEXT WEEKEND. MOBUTU MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT IT WAS ANGOLAN REGIME, NOT ZAIRE, THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SLOW PROGRESS TO DATE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE AND CONCERN RE LUANDA'S CONTINUING PUBLIC CHARGES (WHICH HE LABELED "LIES") OF ZAIRIAN INTRANSIGENCE AND RECOUNTED HOW GOZ HAD FINALLY APPEALED TO SOVIETS TO INTERCEDE WITH ANGOLANS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. HAVING MADE THIS POINT, MOBUTU WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS RESERVATIONS WITH REGARD TO NETO, WHO MOBUTU REGARDS AS BEING UNDER THE THUMB OF SOVIETS AND COMPLETELY BEHOLDEN TO CUBANS AND SOVIET WEAPONS FOR CONTINUED POLITICAL CONTROL. WHILE ACCEPTING SENATOR CLARK'S THESIS THAT THIS DEPENDENCY MIGHT BE REDUCED AND THE CUBANS EVENTUALLY INDUCED TO LEAVE IF OTHER (EG US) OPTIONS OPENED TO ANGOLA, MOBUTU SAID NECESSARY ADDITIONAL ELEMENT IS SOME FORM OF POLITICAL ACCOMODATION WITH UNITA AND FNLA WHICH TOGETHER STILL COMMAND SUPPORT OF SIZABLE SEGMENT OF ANGOLA'S POPULATION. HE RECALLED HOW HE HIMSELF HAD REACHED SUCH ACCOMODATION WITH ZAIRIAN DISSIDENT LEADERS ONCE HE HAD ESTABLISHED DEGREE OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY.

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3. IN DISCUSSING SECURITY ASSISTANCE, WHICH SENATOR CLARK OB-

SERVED WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO CONGRESS, MOBUTU PLACED ZAIRE'S NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONTEXT OF CORRECTING OR AT LEAST IMPROVING IMBALANCE OF POWER WHICH NOW HEAVILY TILTED IN ANGOLA'S FAVOR. MOBUTU REITERATED HIS ACCPETANCE OF SUBSTANCE OF GEN. ROCKWELL'S RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT ALSO NOTED HIS REQUEST THAT INITIAL UPGRADE PACKAGE BE ENLARGED IN SCOPE AND THAT TIMEFRAME FOR PROPOSED MODERNIZATION PROGRAM BE REDUCED.

4. RE ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL SITUATION, MOBUTU INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH IMF AND WORLD BANK, IN ADDITION TO WESTERN DONOR STATES, TO RESOLVE CURRENT PROBLEMS. HE ALSO STRESSED AGRICULTURE AS OVERRIDING PRIORITY FOR LONGER-TERM DEVELOPMENT, NOTING IN THIS CONTEXT THE IMPORTANCE OF US CORN PRODUCTION PROJECT IN NORTH SHABA.

5. THIS MESSAGE CLEARAD IN DRAFT WITH CODEL.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA10305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760453-1122
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761263/aaaacbzs.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL CLARK MEETING WITH MOBUTU
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, CG, AO, (CLARK, DICK), (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006